

2023

CITY OF OWOSSO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Thank you to the city of Owosso voters for passing the 2018 Historic Sites and Parks millage. This funding has been instrumental in the work the Parks and Recreation Commission has completed over the last five years. The millage funding has allowed for the creation of pickleball courts at Bentley Park, two new docks at Hopkins Lake, a kayak landing downtown, new grills and picnic tables at several parks, and much more.

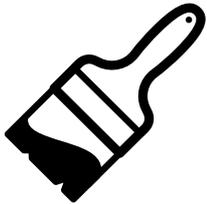
The Commission continued that momentum in 2023 completing projects at Rudy DeMuth Fields, Bennett Fields, Collamer Park, Hugh Parker Soccer Fields, and the James Miner Trail. In response to residents requesting water for the Community Gardens and Dog Park at Collamer Park, the Parks and Recreation Commission has allocated millage funding and started the process of bringing water to that park. This will increase interest and usage at both of these park amenities. Millage funds also allowed the Commission to respond to requests from both the baseball and softball associations for improvements at Bennet Fields and Rudy DeMuth Fields.

Thanks to a donation from the Owosso Masonic Lodge, the Parks and Recreation Commission was able to stock Hopkins Lake with Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. The Commission partnered with the Youth Baseball Associations to build six new dugouts at Rudy DeMuth Fields. Commissioners volunteered their time to paint the concessions stand at Bennett Fields and to mark the hiking trails at Collamer Park. The Commission partnered with the Owosso Rotary Club to plant three trees at Hugh Parker Soccer Fields in honor of Arbor Day. They also partnered with community members to hold the first annual BJ Bannan Memorial Pickleball Tournament at the new Bentley Park Pickleball Courts, this event raised \$3,700 to be used for improvements to the courts.

Going into 2024, the Commission has some exciting projects in the works. With help from the State of Michigan and Senator Sam Singh's office, the City of Owosso has been awarded a \$4.4 million grant to connect the Clinton Ionia Shiawassee (CIS) Trail to downtown Owosso. This grant funding will also allow for improvements to the trail along Jerome Street. Planning and design work has begun while the city waits on a final grant agreement from MDOT for this project.



2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS



Bennett Fields

The concessions and bathroom building received a fresh coat of paint, thanks to a couple of Commissioners who volunteered their time. The Commission allocated millage funds to purchase new electric hand dryers for the restrooms while the softball association purchased new toilets. The Department of Public Works replaced the wood on the bleachers and replaced the dugout roofs.



Rudy DeMuth Fields

The youth baseball community raised over \$30,000 to build new dugouts at Rudy DeMuth Fields. Their amazing team of volunteers removed the old dugouts and built new ones between the fall and spring seasons. The Dept. of Public Works helped out tremendously by hauling away all of the old materials. Millage funds were used to purchase a new park map, scoreboard, and new doors for buildings.



Collamer Park

Millage funds were utilized to purchase two sets of permanent concrete cornhole boards which were installed next to the pavilions. A new trail map was created by city staff and installed on a new sign purchased by the evening Kiwanis Club of Owosso. The Commission was able to stock Hopkins Lake with Bass and Bluegill thanks to a donation from the Owosso Masonic Lodge.



Hugh Parker Fields

The Owosso Rotary Club donated three trees as part of a larger plan to plant trees to create a windscreen for the soccer fields. The trees were planted as part of the city's Arbor Day celebration with representatives from the City and Rotary present.



James Miner Trail

The city's Engineering Dept. assisted in replacing many damaged sidewalk sections from Willaims St. to City Hall and the Dept. of Public Works repaired an erosion issue along the trail near the Armory. This work was funded with \$30,000 from the city's general fund.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Project	Summary	Timeline/Key Points
Amphitheater Mural Project	The City has been awarded an \$8,000 grant from the Curwood Festival for a mural on the amphitheater.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">This project will be completed in 2024
Water at Collamer Park	The Parks and Recreation Commission allocated \$7,000 in millage funds to bring water to the dog park and community gardens.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The water line has been installedDPW will install the bottle filling station spring 2024.
Fitness Course at Harmon Patridge Park	The Parks and Recreation Commission is planning to install a fitness course along the walking trail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Stations and signage are being designed.Expected to be done summer 2025
Oakwood Bridge Resurfacing	The wooden surface of the historic pedestrian bridge will be resurfaced utilizing \$90,000 from the general fund.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Spicer Engineering conducted a survey on the condition of the bridge.Construction will begin spring 2024.
ADA Improvements at Hugh Parker Fields	The Parks and Recreation Commission has been working with the YMCA on suggested ADA improvements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The city engineer has provided an estimate for adding sidewalks.The Commission will request this in their 2024-25 budget.
Tree planting and new roof at Hugh Park Fields	The Dept. of Public Works will be replacing the concession stand roof winter/spring 2024. The Commission allocated \$1,700 in millage funds for trees in 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">DPW has roofing materials and will install as soon as weather allows.A spring or fall tree planting will be planned.
Fred Meijer Clinton Ionia Shiawassee Trail Connection	The city has received a \$4.4 million grant to connect the trail to downtown Owosso.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The city engineering office is in the design stages for the new trail.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the City of Owosso Parks and Recreation Commission for their time and commitment to Owosso's parks:

Andrew Workman

Jeff Selbig

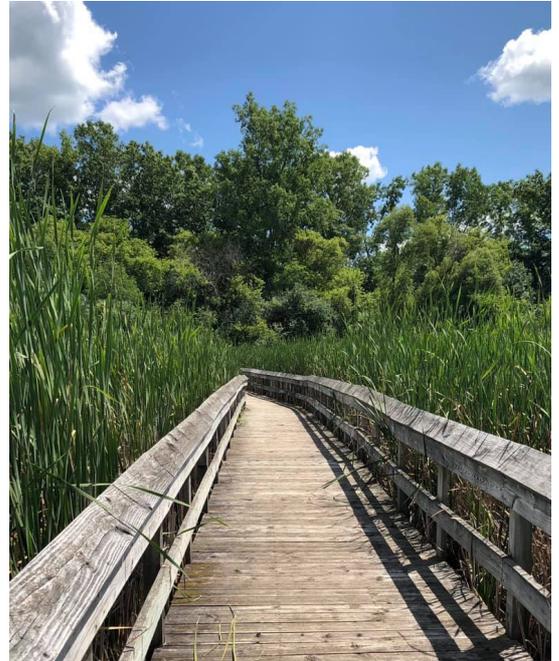
Kevin Maginity

CarolAnne Smith

Gerald Bila

Ellen Rodman

Don Horton



Contact:

Amy Fuller

Assistant City Manager

989-725-0577

Amy.fuller@ci.owosso.mi.us

301 W. Main Street